

REMARKS

The above amendments and following remarks are responsive to the points raised in the September 8, 2005 non-final Office Action. Upon entry of the above amendments, Claims 1, 9, and 17 will have been amended, Claims 3, 11, and 18 will have been canceled, and Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-17 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Response to Objection to the Disclosure

The disclosure has been objected to on the basis that “[o]n page 19, line 15, ‘angel’ should be changed to --angle--.” Appropriate correction of this informality is required.

Applicant has amended the paragraph “[0056]” of the disclosure to correct for the identified informality, thereby obviating the objection.

Accordingly, the objection to the disclosure is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Response to Objection of the Claims

Claim 1, 17, and 18 have been objected to on the basis of various identified informalities.

Applicant has canceled Claim 18 and amended Claims 1 and 17 to obviate this objection.

Accordingly, the objection of the claims is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,993,814 to Hata. Claims 5, 6, 13, 14, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hata in view of US Patent Application

Publication No. 2002/0079491 A1 to Raynor. Claims 8 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hata. Applicant traverses these rejections.

As set forth below, the Examiner has indicated the allowability of the subject matter introduced in original dependent Claims 3, 7, 11, and 15 if rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In the interest of expediting the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 9 to include the limitations introduced in objected to original dependent Claim 3 and 11, respectively. Applicant has canceled independent Claim 18. On this basis, amended independent Claims 1 and 9 are distinguished over the applied references of Hata and Raynor, either alone or in combination. Likewise, dependent Claims 2, 4-8, 10, and 12-16, which depend from either or Claims 1 or 9, are also distinguished over the references of Hata and Raynor, either alone or in combination, for at least the same reasons as their respective base Claims 1 and 9.

Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 7, 11, and 15 have been objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 17 has also been objected to by the Examiner and would be allowable if amended to overcome the objections set forth in Item 3 of the Office Action.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-17 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

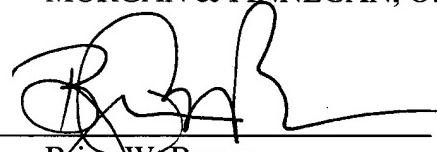
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for filing this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5272.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, O.K.

By:



Brian W. Brown

Registration No. 47,265

(202) 857-7887 Telephone

(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

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Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, LLP
Three World Financial Center
New York, New York 10281-2100
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile